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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 22 | Humidity 31% Partly Sunny Sensex 77,562 | Nifty 23,997 | Gold 1,52,304 | Silver 2,41,200 | Dollar 92.40 | Euro 107.79 | GBP 124.10

City heavily reliant on fast-depleting groundwater had to go through intense drought conditions, but we seem reluctant or unable to collect rain: On average, Bengalureans paid nearly ₹13 lakh as fine in 2025 for not following rainwater harvesting rules

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE RAIN?

2,36,023 buildings have installed RWH systems, 40,000+ pay penalty

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Even as the city faces water shortages this summer, many residents are choosing to pay penalties instead of helping with implementing solutions.

On an average, Bengalureans paid nearly ₹13 lakh every day in 2025 for not installing rainwater harvesting systems, showing a clear gap between awareness and action.

According to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), a total of ₹46.81 crore was collected as fines from January to December 2025 from consumers who did not follow the rainwater harvesting (RWH) rules. The city may receive Cauvery water, but it still depends heavily on groundwater. With fast urban growth, rising population, reduced green cover and more concrete surfaces, groundwater levels are falling, raising concerns about the future supply of water.

To address this, BWSSB has made rainwater harvesting compulsory. As per the BWSSB Act (2009, amended in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

“For the first three months of non-compliance, property owners are charged 50% of their water bill as a fine. For the next three months, the penalty rises to 100% of the bill. If the rules are still not followed, the Board can increase the penalty further

—BWSSB official

TRASH & BURN

All types of garbage is dumped around Sompura Lake and burning of dry waste, plastic has become routine in the vicinity

PAGE 4

KIDS ARE ALRIGHT?

Industrial Training Institutes told to extend administrative, legal and moral support to students as cases of child marriages and elopement rise

PAGE 6

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THINGS TO DO

01 The great outdoors

Career Compass, in association with Laughing Elephants, presents an unforgettable outdoor summer camp amidst the tranquil Sharavathi backwaters near Jog Falls. Designed for children and teenagers aged 10 to 18, the camp offers opportunities to explore nature and build new skills.
Those interested can contact for registration: +91 98450 47991
When: April 9 to 23, May 7 to 21, June 11 to 25

02 Gourmet game day

Loco Lane is elevating the match-day experience from the standard bar stool to the ultimate fan sanctuary. This season, fans can swap the crowded stands for the comfort of premium box seating with the launch of an all-inclusive IPL Live Screening package, blending high-energy sports viewing and gourmet dining.
Where: Loco Lane, Ashok Nagar;
When: Until May 31, 5 pm

03 Literary escapades

Inspired by the quiet, hidden bookshops of Japanese fiction, The Paper Sanctuary transforms Atta Galatta into a retreat for the tactile and the thoughtful. Visitors

can browse the stalls, find a new favourite notebook, and enjoy a weekend dedicated to the art of writing and more.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: April 11 and 12, 11 am

04 Step up

The Lewis Foundation of Classical Ballet is presenting A Tale of Dreams and Destinies based on a classic tale from One Thousand and One Nights, exploring the power of a dream, and the courage it takes to make it real, no matter who you are.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: April 11 (By invitation) and 12 (Open to all)

05 Quiet within

ArtFlute is presenting Choosing to Rest, an online exhibition that explores rest not as inactivity, but as presence - a moment of listening to the body, intuition, and inner rhythm in a world defined by speed and constant output.
Where: ArtFlute Online Gallery (www.artflute.com);
When: Until April 10

Responsibility unclear for tackling online defamation

Darshan's plea: Court examines role of Union ministries in blocking disparaging content, while ministries' representation maintains that power to prohibit such material lies elsewhere

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com
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The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday raised questions over which arm of the Union government is empowered to curb allegedly defamatory content circulating about Kannada actor Darshan in relation to the Renukaswamy murder case.

Hearing a petition filed by the actor, the court examined the roles of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), both of which Darshan claims have failed to intervene despite repeated complaints about what he terms a "media trial."

Justice Sachin Shanker Magadum, during the proceedings, pressed the Union's counsel to clarify which authority is responsible for blocking such content. "Who has the power to block such content?... You (Ministries) have the authority to block such content," the court orally observed.

In response, advocate MN Kumar, appearing for the ministries, argued that the legal framework under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act operates differently. He submitted, "Section 69A... is on a different footing... Your Lordship can pass orders restraining the media houses...

We have no control over it."

The court, however, expressed disapproval of continued coverage that appears to disregard earlier judicial directions. It took note of how certain television channels have been reconstructing court proceedings and openly analysing the merits of a case that is still under trial.

Kumar informed the court that there exists a structured, three-tier mechanism to regulate such content. According to him, complaints are first reviewed by a self-regulatory body, then examined at an inter-departmental level, and finally escalated to the government under the relevant statutory framework.

At one point, the bench indicated its intent to proceed with orders regardless of further submissions from the Union. "With or without your assistance, I will be pronouncing orders tomorrow," the judge remarked when additional time was sought. However, upon a renewed request for a brief adjournment, the matter was posted for further hearing on Thursday.

Court disapproves of ongoing coverage that disregards prior judicial directions, noting certain television channels reconstruct proceedings and openly analyse case still under trial

Court upholds ESIC service bond validity

The Karnataka High Court has upheld the validity of service bonds imposed on MBBS students by Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) institutions, ruling that such conditions are legally enforceable and do not amount to forced labour.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha delivered the judgment while allowing an appeal filed by ESIC and setting aside an earlier single-judge order that had restrained enforcement of the bond requirement. The case arose from petitions filed by students admitted to an ESIC Medical College in Bengaluru under the government quota for the 2012–13 academic year. The students had challenged the requirement to execute a service bond as part of their admission.

Dismissing their challenge, the court held that the bond condition formed an essential component of the admission process and was accepted by the students at the time of enrolment. The bench observed that the obligation was tied to the subsidised nature of the medical education provided.

Rejecting the argument that the service bond amounted to bonded labour, the bench held that such a claim was untenable. It reasoned that obligations voluntarily undertaken in exchange for educational benefits cannot be equated with coercion or forced labour.

Kidney transplants to become easier with new policy

In a major boost to patients suffering from kidney failure, the state government has introduced the "Multi-Pair Kidney Exchange Transplant Guidelines–2026," aimed at addressing the persistent shortage of donors and incompatibility issues in organ transplants.
The new framework enables kidney exchanges among three or more donor-recipient pairs, allowing patients who cannot receive kidneys from their intended donors due to blood group mismatch or biological incompatibility to find suitable matches within a larger pool. This initiative is expected to benefit over 5,000 patients currently awaiting transplants and could significantly ease the burden on nearly 15,000 people affected by kidney-related ailments in the state.

The policy lays down strict safeguards to ensure transparency and ethical practices, including mandatory consent agreements among all participating pairs, verification of close familial relationships between donors and recipients, and a complete ban on financial transactions or middlemen involvement. All transplant surgeries under the exchange programme must be conducted simultaneously, with compulsory video documentation of donor-recipient interviews.
Officials noted that while similar exchanges have been attempted in some states, this is among the first instances of a structured and comprehensive guideline in India. Developed in line with existing transplant laws and Supreme Court directives, the initiative is expected to revolutionise organ donation by offering a scientific and humane solution to long-standing challenges in kidney transplantation. **–BMB**

As fuel crisis drags on, auto drivers inch closer to breaking point

With no relief in sight from the ongoing LPG crisis, auto rickshaw drivers are reportedly struggling to sustain operations. Long queues and soaring prices have forced some to abandon their vehicles altogether and return to their native places, while demands for compensation grow louder each day.

On Wednesday, Aam Aadmi Party Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union President Ayub Khan criticised the Central government for failing to ensure adequate LPG supply for auto rickshaws. He also accused Karnataka ministers of neglecting the issue, claiming they are preoccupied with bye-elections in Bagalkote and Davanagere. "Black-marketing of LPG is rampant in the state. The weights and measurement department has not taken any action on people selling the LPG in the black market," Khan said.

He said that most auto rickshaw drivers are struggling due to LPG shortage. "I demand the State government to sanction Rs 15,000 as a compensation for every auto rickshaw driver till the LPG crisis is over. The state government has to take measures for the welfare of small eateries and gig workers," he said.

Earlier, some auto rickshaw drivers had staged a protest at Freedom Park by displaying empty LPG cylinders and towing auto rickshaws with a rope.

"I demand the government to give Rs 20,000 for each auto driver per month till the LPG crisis is over. Auto rickshaw drivers have been facing a lot of problems due to the shortage of LPG. They are also not able to get LPG cylinders for cooking and also are not able to pay school fees for their children as they could not operate autos due to the shortage of LPG," said Indian Vehicle Drivers Trade Union President Gandasi Sadananda Swamy.

C Sampath, General Secretary, Adarsha Auto Drivers' Union, said, "I have also written a letter appealing to the Central government and State government to give Rs 15,000 to each of the auto rickshaw drivers per month till the LPG crisis is over. I expect the LPG crisis to be over in a few weeks."

–Y Maheswara Reddy

Steep hike in vehicle fitness fees triggers backlash

In a move that has caught vehicle owners off guard, the state government has sharply increased renewal (fitness) fees for heavy and goods vehicles, drawing strong criticism from transporters and drivers. The revised rates, implemented without much public notice, have made renewal significantly costlier for lakhs of trucks, buses, and commercial vehicles. For heavy vehicles older than 20 years, the fee has surged from Rs 3,000 to Rs 28,000, while those between 15 and 20 years now attract Rs 14,000, up from Rs 1,500. Vehicles in the 13–15 year bracket will require Rs 6,000, marking a steep jump from the earlier Rs 1,000.

Goods vehicles weighing over 7,000 kg have also been hit hard, with renewal charges for those over 20 years rising from Rs 2,600 to Rs 22,600, alongside similar hikes across other age categories. The increase extends to smaller vehicles as well; two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, and light motor vehicles adding to the burden on owners. With over 3.3 crore registered vehicles in the state, including more than six lakh trucks, the decision is expected to have a wide impact.

–BMB

Police scrap orderly system, shift to outsourcing

In a major administrative reform, the state police department has decided to replace the existing orderly system for senior police officers with outsourced personnel. Director General and Inspector General of Police Dr M A Saleem has issued a revised order directing that staff currently assigned as orderlies be relieved from such duties. Officials have been instructed to arrange personnel on an outsourcing basis to perform orderly responsibilities instead of using in-house staff. The move is being seen as a significant step toward improving administrative discipline and efficiency within the department. Officials stated that earlier guidelines had laid out the framework for assigning orderlies to senior officers. With the latest revision, clarity has been provided on duty structures, and instructions have been issued to release personnel currently deployed in such roles. —BMB

Early morning crash claims truck driver's life

A 60-year-old truck driver died after his vehicle rammed into a stationary lorry at a traffic signal on Mysuru Road near the Satellite Bus Stand in the early hours of Wednesday. The deceased, identified as Vijay Kumar (60), was driving a vegetable-laden truck when the accident occurred around 4 am under the jurisdiction of the Byatarayanapura Traffic Police. According to preliminary investigations, the truck was descending the Mysuru Road flyover when the driver reportedly lost control and crashed into a 10-wheel lorry waiting at the signal.

The impact of the collision was severe, leaving the driver with fatal injuries and his body badly mutilated, police said. Officials revealed that the truck was transporting vegetables from Malur in Kolar district to RR Nagar for an online grocery delivery platform. Police personnel rushed to the spot, cleared the damaged vehicles, restored traffic movement, and shifted the body to Victoria Hospital for postmortem. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway. —BMB

Juvenile nabbed for stealing gold from senior citizen

The Banaswadi police have apprehended a juvenile in conflict with law in connection with a house theft case and recovered 35 grams of gold ornaments worth ₹5 lakh.

The complaint was filed on December 12, 2025, by a resident of Banaswadi, stating that 199 grams of gold kept in a cupboard had gone missing. The theft reportedly took place on August 13, 2025, when the complainant's grandson visited the house. The elderly couple had stepped out for a hospital visit at the time. Due to health issues, the complaint was lodged later.

During the investigation, police identified the grandson as the accused, who was already under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Justice Board in Chikkamagaluru. He was secured on a body warrant and questioned, during which he confessed to the crime.

Based on his statement, police recovered part of the stolen gold from a jewellery shop in Mysuru, and further investigation is ongoing in the case. —BMB

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Sompura Lake's dirty comeback

Toxic neglect returns to haunt Sompura Lake as waste piles and smoke clouds choke surroundings, fuelling anger over prolonged civic indifference

Piles of waste dumped along Sompura Lake reflect ongoing civic neglect

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Locals cite respiratory ailments, vandalised cameras, biodiversity damage, and unanswered letters, while authorities delay action pending survey outcomes and proposed NGO-led restoration plans

Sompura Lake was in the news due to the negligence and apathy of the authorities concerned. The water body was rejuvenated by a residents' welfare association in February 2018, as the authorities did nothing to keep it neat and clean. However, the water body has again hit the headlines for the wrong reasons, as no one is bothered to rejuvenate it.

With the dumping of all types of garbage and the burning of dry waste and plastic becoming routine around the water body, residents and environmentalists have been running from pillar to post seeking much-needed help to save it.

"Burning of garbage and dumping of waste are rampant around Sompura Lake. We are facing a lot of problems due to the burning of waste around the lake. The authorities have rejuvenated Yamare Lake, which is just 200 metres away from Sompura Lake. I want the authorities to rejuvenate Sompura Lake without any delay," said Abhijit Mahanty, a resident.

The Aquila Owners' Association, Sompura village, wrote a letter to the Secretary and President of Yamare Gram Panchayat on November 15, 2025, stating that solid waste is being dumped on a daily basis around the lake, particularly along the mud road opposite Spandana Hospital, near the lake adjacent to Confident Atik. "In addition to dumping plastic and other hazardous materials, this waste is being burned regularly, releasing toxic smoke into the air. This pollution is causing significant health problems for residents in the vicinity. Moreover, the continuous dumping and burning have led to the degradation of the lake bed and the adjacent bamboo forest, which were home to various local and migratory bird species and other wildlife," the letter read.

The KSPCB Environmental Officer (Sarjapur) wrote a letter to the Panchayat Development Officer, Yamare Gram Panchayat, on November 24, 2025, stating that Abhijit Mahanty, a resident, had lodged a complaint about the burning of waste around the lake. "It is found that garbage is being dumped around the lake. It is also found that garbage is being burned around the lake. I request you to take action against those responsible, as it would pollute the environment," the letter read.

However, the burning of garbage and dumping of waste continues around the lake. "Garbage burning has become a health hazard for us. My parents are suffering from asthma. The Gram Panchayat installed CCTV cameras, but miscreants damaged them. We have complained to the KSPCB authorities and Gram Panchayat officials, but nothing has been done to stop the dumping and burning of garbage here," said Satish V, a resident.

Meanwhile, Yamare Gram Panchayat Secretary Prasad K said that a survey of the lake is in progress. "A non-governmental organisation has come forward to rejuvenate the lake. We are not undertaking any developmental works at the lake. I expect the rejuvenation of the lake to begin after the ongoing survey is completed," the secretary said.

Speed thrills, curve kills

Fatal hotspot exposed as group seeks tough measures to tackle speeding, blind curves, and mounting threats faced by daily commuters

Iffath Fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents raise alarm over repeated incidents, unsafe crossings, and poor regulation, pressing officials to act quickly

Raising serious concerns over road safety, the citizens' group Citizens for Citizens (C4C) has written to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Commissioner, Maheshwar Rao, urging immediate speed-calming measures along Cunningham Road in Vasanth Nagar.

In a letter, C4C founder and convenor Rajkumar Dugar highlighted the dangers on a 500-metre stretch of Cunningham Road between Kalpana Circle and BKM Gowda (Chandrika) Circle, calling it a high-risk zone for both pedestrians and motorists.

He cited a recent fatal accident on March 29, in which two people lost their lives after a car, reportedly travelling in the wrong direction, crashed into a two-wheeler near a curve on the stretch. He pointed out that this was not an isolated incident, referring to multiple accidents and near-misses reported over the years. On July 15, 2019, a motorcyclist accelerated, mounted the footpath just ahead of the bus stand, and died. On June 9, 2025, a car rammed into a pole on the footpath along the stretch between the curve and BKM Gowda Circle.

"Vehicles enter from Kalpana Circle and accelerate, reaching speeds of up to 60 km/h, and then have to slow down suddenly at the curve and junction ahead. Such speeding, combined with blind spots, makes it extremely difficult and unsafe for pedestrians to cross this stretch," said Dugar.

According to C4C, the road sees relatively lower traffic compared to other parts of Cunningham Road, which ironically encourages overspeeding. The presence of a sharp 50-degree curve and a busy connecting road at 7th Cross further increases the risk.

The letter pointed out that 7th Cross is the only access road connecting the densely populated Vasanth Nagar area to Cunningham Road. "This road has a blind right-angle turn along with a steep slope. Vehicles joining from 7th Cross have to slow down or stop before entering, making the situation risky," he noted.

The issue of vehicles, especially two-wheelers, frequently moving in the wrong direction, sometimes even using footpaths, is another concern. "All these clearly indicate rampant overspeeding here, resulting in loss of life and property," added Dugar. C4C proposed two raised pedestrian crossings near Kalpana Circle and 7th Cross, with a third in between. Reducing speeds to 25 km/h would delay commuters by only 36 seconds but improve safety. The group also sought better signage and similar measures on Palace Road, urging swift action to prevent accidents and safeguard lives.

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Lighting failure
Austin Town

Streetlights have not been functioning for over a week opposite the Government Urdu School on Linden Street, Austin Town, with no response from the concerned officials.

Garbage mess
Ragigudda

Garbage accumulation at the Ragigudda Metro bus stop is creating an unhygienic environment for commuters.

Filth build-up
Guddadahalli

Garbage and silt build-up at Vinayaka Nagar, Old Guddadahalli, is causing a foul smell and pest issues in the residential area.

Guardians of the Face: Maxillofacial Surgeon Dr Girish Gowda Honoured

For many accident victims, facial injuries leave scars that go beyond the physical, often affecting confidence, identity and the ability to return to normal life. Restoring both appearance and self-belief has been the driving force behind the work of noted oral and maxillofacial surgeon Dr Girish Gowda, who has devoted his career to treating complex facial trauma. Through advanced surgical care and a compassionate approach towards patients, he has helped countless individuals rebuild their lives after devastating injuries. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to reconstructive surgery and patient care, Dr Gowda has been honoured with the prestigious VK-BM Health Excellence Award.

Dr Girish Gowda, Associate Professor Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics, Bengaluru

Currently serving as an Associate Professor at the Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics in Bengaluru, Dr Gowda is widely respected for his expertise in facial trauma surgery and his compassionate approach towards patients recovering from serious injuries.

Professional Journey

Born in Kollegal in Chamarajanagar district, Dr Gowda completed his postgraduate medical education in Bengaluru in 1999. To further enhance his expertise, he pursued a specialised fellowship in Germany, gaining advanced exposure in oral and maxillofacial surgical techniques.

Pride of Karnataka awardee

Dr Gowda specialises in oral and maxillofacial surgery, a field that connects medicine and dentistry. His work includes dental implant procedures, treatment of facial injuries, reconstruction of fractured facial bones and correction of jaw-related conditions. Over the years, he has successfully performed more than 10,000 facial bone surgeries, earning recognition including the Pride of Karnataka Award. His work has helped many patients recover from severe trauma and return to normal life with renewed confidence.

Mobile Usage Dangers

Apart from his surgical work, Dr Gowda actively spreads awareness about the dangers of careless driving. According to him, negligence and the use of mobile phones while driving are major causes of road accidents. "When drivers use mobile phones while driving, nearly 90 percent of their attention shifts away from the road. A moment of negligence can lead to serious accidents and lifelong injuries," he said. He also pointed out that facial structures are extremely delicate, and two-wheeler accidents often result in severe facial injuries that require complex surgery.

With more than 15 years of clinical experience, he has served at reputed institutions including Medax Hospital on Bannerghatta Road and Astra Hospitals on Konanakunte Road, before continuing his work at the Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics.

Prevention Focus

While modern surgical techniques can repair many injuries, Dr Gowda believes prevention is the best protection. He advises motorists to strictly follow traffic rules, avoid distractions while driving and prioritise road safety to prevent accidents and protect lives.

CONTACT: 9880822544

Two Decades of Kidney Care: Dr Rammohan Bhat Honoured with Health Excellence Award

With over 20 years of dedicated service in nephrology, renowned kidney specialist Dr Rammohan Sripada Bhat has been recognised with the prestigious VK-BM Health Excellence Award for his contribution to advanced kidney care and patient-focused treatment. Currently serving as the Director of Nephrology at Kauvery Hospital, Electronic City, Bengaluru, Dr Rammohan widely respected for combining medical expertise with a compassionate approach towards patients suffering from kidney disorders.

Medical Expertise

Dr Rammohan began his medical journey with an MBBS from the Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Hubballi, followed by a postgraduate degree in General Medicine from the University of Delhi. He further strengthened his international medical credentials by earning the prestigious MRCP qualification in the United Kingdom.

Over the years, he has developed expertise in several specialised areas including kidney transplantation, dialysis, peritoneal dialysis and renal biopsy. He has also been associated with the use of advanced and robotic-assisted procedures in kidney treatment, ensuring better outcomes and faster recovery for patients.

Dr Rammohan is a member of several reputed global medical bodies such as the European Renal Association, the International Society of Nephrology, and the Royal College of Physicians. In addition to clinical practice, he has contributed to medical research, publishing papers in various national and international journals.

Bengaluru Practice

Since 2013, Dr Rammohan has been serving patients in Bengaluru and has successfully treated numerous complex kidney conditions. His approach focuses not only on treatment but also on educating patients about long-term kidney health. "Kidney-related diseases are increasingly being seen among younger people due to lifestyle changes and unhealthy food habits. Nearly 40 percent of people in India face some form of kidney-related health issue, and awareness about prevention is extremely important," he said.

Preventive Steps

Dr Rammohan also highlighted the growing impact of lifestyle disorders among the younger population. According to him, more than 20 percent of young people are already dealing with high blood pressure and diabetes, two major risk factors for kidney disease.

"Reduced physical activity, irregular food habits and lack of regular health check-ups are contributing to rising health problems among young people. While modern medical technology offers advanced treatment options, prevention remains the best solution," he explained.

Advanced Treatment

Explaining the treatment process, Dr Rammohan said kidney disease often develops gradually and may go unnoticed in its early stages. "When kidney function drops to around 10 percent, patients may require dialysis to support the body's functioning. In severe cases, kidney transplantation becomes the most effective solution to restore normal kidney function and improve quality of life," he said by adding that each patient requires a personalised treatment approach based on the severity of the condition and overall health status.

Preventive Steps

According to Dr Rammohan, simple lifestyle measures can significantly reduce the risk of kidney disease. "People should focus on preventing disease rather than waiting for symptoms to appear. Drinking clean water, maintaining a healthy diet and staying active can go a long way in protecting kidney health," he advised.

Healthcare Awareness

Dr Rammohan also pointed to the urgent need for stronger public awareness about kidney health. "At present, only around 25 percent of kidney patients in the country receive proper treatment, while nearly 75 percent do not get timely care. Greater awareness and improved healthcare access are essential to address this gap," he said.

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POCSO-related offences: ITIs told to keep eye on students' safety

State asks institutes to implement child rights panel norms, strengthen counselling, awareness systems to prevent abuse, pregnancies, elopement cases

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To prevent child and unintended pregnancies and the cases related to Protection of Children from Sexual Offices (POCSO) Act, child marriages and elopement cases among the students of Industrial Training Institutes in the state, the Commissioner of Industrial Training and Employment Department has issued a circular to the Joint Commissioner to take measures for implementing the recommendations and suggestions of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR).

The circular directs officials to ensure that all Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under their jurisdiction adopt and implement the recommendations and review them regularly. "The KSCPCR, in a letter, suggested some measures for the benefit of adolescent youths pursuing diploma in industrial training. It suggested comprehensive administrative, legal and moral support for the students. I want you to send these suggestions to all industrial training institutes that come under your jurisdiction and direct them to discuss during the monthly monitoring meetings every month and submit the report from time to time", the circular read.

The move follows a letter written by KSCPCR member Dr Thippeswamy KT on March 18, highlighting the need to address issues such as unintended pregnancies, elopement and vulnerabilities among adolescent students enrolled in technical training institutes.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

New directive pushes training institutes toward structured child safety mechanisms, ensuring early intervention, stronger monitoring, student support systems to reduce vulnerability, promote informed safer decision making among adolescents

Among the key recommendations is the establishment of a Child Protection Committee (CPC) in every college and ITI. The committee must be constituted in accordance with Section 44 of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, 2015, and Section 54 of the Karnataka Child Protection Policy, 2016. The guidelines also mandate immediate reporting of any sexual assault cases to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), along with strict implementation of a standard operating procedure (SOP) across institutions.

The KSCPCR has also called for a code of conduct for both staff and students, aligned with Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Section 3 of the JJ Act. Institutions must appoint trained counsellors, either on a permanent or contractual basis, and organise regular awareness programmes focusing on sexual safety and online safety.

To strengthen emotional support systems, the recommendations include forming peer support groups and introducing a buddy system on campuses. Additionally, institutes must establish a confidential grievance redressal mechanism to encourage students to report concerns without fear.

Welcoming the initiative, child rights activist Nagasimha G Rao said the department's decision reflects a strong commitment to student welfare. "To make this initiative even better, it would be excellent if topics related to child rights and child protection are incorporated as an essential part of the training curriculum. This will help create greater awareness among the children about their own rights. It will also equip them with the knowledge to protect themselves from any form of exploitation or abuse," Rao said.

20 flyovers, 8 underpasses get cleaned up

As part of the Swachh Survekshan 2025–26 campaign, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation undertook a special cleanliness drive across key urban stretches, cleaning 20 flyovers and eight underpasses in the city. Commissioner Rajendra Cholan said the initiative is part of the fifth phase of an ongoing action plan aimed at improving sanitation and boosting the city's national ranking.

The identified locations, many near schools, colleges, and busy junctions, were thoroughly cleaned to ensure better hygiene in high-footfall areas. Around 4 tonnes of waste were cleared during the drive.

Nearly 495 personnel participated, including 334 pourakarmikas and 161 auto tipper drivers and sanitation staff. The operation was carried out under the supervision of Additional Commissioner (Development) Daljit Kumar, with support from civic officials and field staff. **–BMB**

Minor trekker missing in Chandra Drona mountain

A minor girl, Kumari Srinanda, who went for a trek to Chandra Drona mountain in Chikkamagalur district, has been missing since the evening of Tuesday.

While the trek does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Karnataka Forest Department, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has assured that the Department will assist in the search operation.

The Minister has instructed the state forest department to immediately provide forest personnel and equipment such as thermal drones to help the district administration and police force in locating the girl. **–BMB**

Girl students opt for science as STEM access reshapes classrooms

Year-on-year growth in girls choosing science reflects the impact of labs, mentorship, and national initiatives improving STEM exposure across schools statewide

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Karnataka is witnessing a consistent rise in the number of girl students opting for science education, reflecting a broader national push to bridge gender gaps in STEM fields.

According to recent government data, the number of girls encouraged to pursue science in Karnataka has increased from 1,030 in 2023–24 to 1,278 in 2024–25, and further to 1,300 in 2025–26 (as of March 19, 2026), taking the total to 3,608 over three years. The steady rise points to sustained efforts to improve female participation in science education.

Across India, states such as Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest numbers with 6,672 girls encouraged over three years, followed by Maharashtra (5,008), Gujarat (4,888) and Rajasthan (4,773). Southern states have also shown progress, with Kerala reporting 2,790 and Telangana 2,415 during the same period. Education experts note that Karnataka's growth, though moderate compared to larger states, reflects consistent implementation at the grassroots level. "What stands out is the year-on-year increase, which suggests that interventions are reaching schools and communities effectively," an academician said.

The figures were shared by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh, who highlighted the Centre's flagship initiative, the Vigyan Jyoti programme, launched in 2019–20 to promote girls' participation in STEM.

E-STEM labs encourage teamwork and project-based learning, a enabling students to build analytical skills and prepare for future technology-driven careers

The programme focuses on improving gender parity through hands-on experiential learning, interaction with women scientific role models, visits to research and industrial laboratories, career guidance workshops, and counselling for students and parents.

At the school level, initiatives such as E-STEM labs are making a tangible difference. Shashi Deepika G, a Science Teacher at IGRS in Appegowdanahalli, said the introduction of the E-STEM Lab has transformed learning outcomes and engagement. "Before the introduction of the E-STEM Lab, the school primarily relied on traditional teaching methods. Practical exposure was limited. With the establishment of the E STEM Lab, the school has witnessed a significant transformation. These facilities enable students to engage in experiential learning, innovation, and creativity. The E-STEM Lab is actively used…Its impact includes improved understanding, development of coding, analytical, and problem-solving skills…encouragement of teamwork, innovation, and project-based learning, and preparation for future careers."

She added that two students, Layashree (Class 7) and Gowthami (Class 8), were selected for the INSPIRE MANAK Award, reflecting the lab's impact.

However, challenges remain. "Girls are opting for STEM subjects more than before. However, their participation is still lower than boys, and many drop off after secondary level due to social, financial, and confidence-related factors," she said. Suma BS, Principal of Morarji Desai Residential School, said exposure through labs and structured batches has improved participation.

3 fifties helped pile up 210 and Delhi Capitals wobbly middle-order does the rest for Gujarat

Rahul's cracking innings can't save Delhi

KL Rahul gave it his best shot as Delhi Capitals chased 210 set up by Gujarat Titans in match 14 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Wednesday. But DC's middle-order wobbled after the fall of Pathum Nissanka. Rashid Khan turned the game on its head in the tenth over, removing both Nitish Rana and debutant Sameer Rizvi in quick succession. On top of that, David Miller also walked off after a slight finger knock after a dive. Axar Patel also soon fell to Rashid Khan with a sharp catch from Glenn Phillips. All the while Rahul held fort, but without much support there was nothing he could do.

Delhi Capitals' KL Rahul celebrates his half-century

Gujarat Titans' Washington Sundar celebrates after scoring fifty runs

GT	210/4 (20)
DC	209/8 (20)

3 fifties

Captain Shubman Gill, Jos Buttler, and Washington Sundar hit blazing fifties each as Gujarat Titans posted 210/4. Yet GT could only make 58 runs in the last six overs.

Buttler was back to his devastating best with the bat by hitting a 27-ball 52, laced with three fours and five towering sixes. Gill, back in action after a muscle spasm in his neck ruled him out in the last game, was elegant in collecting the majority of his runs through leg-side to top-score with 70 off 45 balls, laced with four boundaries and five sixes.

He also shared a commanding 104-run partnership with Washington, who hit his first IPL fifty via a 32-ball 55, studded with six boundaries and two sixes. For DC, Lungi Ngidi changed the complexion of the match in the back end with his slower balls to end up with 1-24 in his four overs, even as the rest of his bowling counterparts had an economy rate above eight.

Sai Sudharsan got GT's innings going by clipping Mukesh Kumar for four, before Gill unleashed a backfoot drive racing through backward point for another boundary. After leaning into an exquisite cover drive off Ngidi, Sudharsan got out for a score below fifty for the first time in IPL games in New Delhi by chopping on to his stumps off Mukesh.

Buttler showed signs of his old blistering self when he lofted Mukesh for six, before going inside-out and lofting Axar Patel for four and six respectively. Buttler showcased his full range in Mukesh's third over – a scoop over fine leg for six was followed by a maximum launched clean down the ground, and then a lofted drive over extra cover cleared the ropes easily, as 23 runs came off it.

Gill, meanwhile, had the best seat in the house to watch the carnage from the other end – as Buttler swatted Ngidi for four, before getting his fifty in 24 balls. But Kuldeep Yadav's short ball ended Buttler's fun – it didn't bounce much as he went for the pull, and was castled.

—Agencies

Today's battle
Kolkata Knight Riders
vs
Lucknow Super Giants
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Narine on for LSG clash, Varun in doubt

Varun Chakravarthy is yet to heal from an injury to his left hand

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will receive a massive boost in their spin attack as Sunil Narine, their marquee player, has recovered from the illness which forced him to sit out for the washed-out match against Punjab Kings (PBKS) on Monday.

Chakravarthy, their second spinner, is in doubt for Thursday's clash against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) due to an injury to his left hand, which also caused him to miss the PBKS clash. Varun's hand was covered with tape as he sat in the dugout, and there is no timeline set for his return. He had sustained the injury during the clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) last week, as per ESPNCricinfo.

As per KKR management, Narine faced an "abdominal issue" which kept him away from the PBKS clash, making that game the first instance since the 2019 edition that both spinners did not feature in the playing XI.

Narine resumed his practice on Tuesday and is set to boost the inexperienced KKR bowling attack, which is down due to injuries and player unavailability. Anukul Roy, the left-armer, was the sole spinner to feature for KKR against PBKS.

Varun has been wicketless and expensive in both of the matches, going for 0/48 against the Mumbai Indians (MI) in four overs and being belted for 31 runs in two overs against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). The bowler has been struggling with form since the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup. Starting off with nine wickets in four group stage matches, his form tapered off later on, taking just five wickets in five matches from the Super Eight opener to the final against New Zealand and leaking plenty of runs.

Narine has fared better though, taking 1/30 in four overs against MI, while going for 0/39 in four overs against SRH.

KKR lost both their games against MI and SRH, and just a point after a washout against PBKS, have left them at the eighth spot in the table.

—ANI

He sets Bumrah up...: Anil Kumble lauds Vaibhav Suryavanshi's fearless batting

Legendary spinner Anil Kumble praised Rajasthan Royals (RR) batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for his exceptional batting against Jasprit Bumrah, highlighting how the young batter unusually dictated terms against one of the world's best bowlers.

Kumble noted that Sooryavanshi cleverly anticipated Bumrah's variations, set him up for a slower ball, and capitalised with aggressive strokeplay, underlining his remarkable strike rate and consistent performances.

Sooryavanshi delivered a stunning display against ace speedster Jasprit Bumrah during his side's Indian Premier League (IPL) clash against the Mumbai Indians in Guwahati. The contest was reduced to an 11-overs-a-side affair due to rain.

"Sooryavanshi makes it look easy against one of the world's best bowlers. First ball, he hits him for a six and then sets him up. He set the bowler up, not the other way around. We've generally seen Bumrah set up batters so many times, but here, Sooryavanshi set Bumrah up to bowl that slower ball on the third delivery, and he was waiting for it to hit him for another six. It was brilliant batting by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, just the way he strikes the ball and the consistency he has shown in terms of strike-rate. He is striking at close to 300 in every game and scoring more than 30 runs consistently, which is outstanding," Kumble said on JioHotstar.

Facing Bumrah for the first time in his career, Sooryavanshi smashed the ace seamer for two big sixes in the second over of RR's innings. Sooryavanshi's innings was short but electrifying. He scored a blistering 39 off just 14 balls.

Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi plays a shot during the Indian Premier League 2026 match against Mumbai Indians at Barsapara Cricket Stadium, in Guwahati on Tuesday

The duo of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sooryavanshi took charge of the bowlers right from the first over. A blazing 32-ball 77* by Jaiswal and a stunning 14-ball 39 runs by Sooryavanshi helped RR reach 150/3 before bowlers restricted Mumbai Indians (MI) to 123/ 9 in this rain-truncated match in the ongoing IPL on Tuesday.

In the run-chase, MI could not find the right tempo and lost wickets regularly, with Burger (2/21), Sandeep (2/25) and Bishnoi (2/26) being the pick of the bowlers.

RR is at the top of the points table with three in three, delivering sensational results under skipper Riyan Parag. After starting off with a win against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), MI has failed against Delhi Capitals (DC) and RR and is at the seventh spot in the points table.

—ANI

New buildings compliant, old ones plead space constraint

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2021), all buildings with a built-up area of 2,400 sq ft and above and all new constructions on sites measuring 1,200 sq ft and above must have RWH systems. The Board has over 11 lakh water connections, including more than 2,000 government connections. About 85% of government buildings have already installed these systems. While most new buildings are following the rule due to better awareness, many older buildings are yet to comply, often citing lack of space for installation.

How many buildings are compliant?

At present, around 2,36,023 buildings have installed rainwater harvesting systems. Every month, penalties are collected from roughly 40,000 to 48,000 buildings. In January 2025, fines were collected from 40,191 buildings, bringing in ₹2.70 crore. February saw 40,650 buildings and ₹2.84 crore, while March recorded 41,042 buildings and ₹2.80 crore. In April, 42,967 buildings paid ₹3.15 crore, and in May, 43,726 buildings paid ₹4.21 crore. By July, the number rose to 45,350 buildings with ₹4.19 crore collected. August recorded ₹4.51 crore from 44,402 buildings. In September, 46,078 buildings paid ₹4.54 crore, followed by ₹4.51 crore from 46,776 buildings in October. November saw 47,319 buildings paying ₹4.33 crore, and December ended with ₹4.46 crore collected from 47,560 buildings.

A senior BWSSB official said, "The penalty system increases over time. For the first three months of non-compliance, property owners are charged 50% of their water bill as a fine. For the next three months, the penalty rises to 100% of the bill. If the rules are still not followed, the Board can increase the penalty further."

With the monsoon approaching, BWSSB is planning fresh awareness drives and is also looking at stricter steps against those who continue to ignore the rules. "We have taken several steps to create awareness among citizens about rainwater harvesting. We have also introduced special filter systems on a pilot basis to make rainwater cleaner and suitable for use. We will continue to spread awareness about this," said BWSSB chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar.

Officials say the number of people installing rainwater harvesting systems is slowly increasing each year, but the pace is still not enough.

Trekkers' path: Strengthen safety protocol at eco-tourism sites, conservationist urges

Following the incident of a Kerala trekker who went missing in the dense forest of Tadiandamol Hills in Kodagu, a wildlife conservationist has urged the state forest department to strengthen safety protocols at eco-tourism sites in Karnataka.

Giridhar Kulkarni, a Belagavi-based conservationist, has requested the Karnataka Forest Department to bring in mandatory communication, tracking systems, SOPs, budgetary support, and visitor feedback mechanisms at tourism sites.

In the letter written to the head of the forest force in Karnataka, Kulkarni has sought that urgent directions be issued to all field directors of tiger reserves and DCFs of wildlife and territorial divisions, to strengthen safety mechanisms in eco-tourism activities such as trekking, safaris, and nature trails.

The recent incident involving the 35-year-old techie from Kerala highlights critical gaps in on-ground communication and real-time monitoring.

Kulkarni, in his letter, has underlined that the recent incident is not an isolated one and there have been repeated instances of trekkers and tourists going missing, necessitating the deployment of enormous time and resources for search and rescue operations.

"Media reports indicate that she appears to have relied on a mobile network. In many eco-tourism locations, particularly in forested and hilly terrains, mobile network coverage remains poor or non-existent. Guides accompanying visitors often operate without dependable communication tools," says Kulkarni.

Mandatory provision of walkie-talkie sets to all registered guides operating in eco-tourism sites, deployment of dedicated mobile devices to guides, real-time tracking of trekking routes, centralized monitoring of every safari and trek at range or division level are some measures requested to be brought in place.

"A standard operating procedure governing how trekking trails, safaris, and other eco-tourism activities are to be conducted will go a long way. The SOP should include mandatory registration and briefing of visitors, route demarcation, emergency response and rescue coordination protocols, and roles and responsibilities of tourists, guides, and forest staff by the Department is the need of the hour." said Kulkarni. **BMB**

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We, Ashok Kumar .A.M and Priyadarshini, residing at No. 451/4, 6th Cross Road, Kamalanagar, Bangalore stating that, our daughter name is entered as Hitaishi .A in her birth certificate. However, we request the competent authority to amend our daughter name from Hitaishi .A to Yasvitha Gowda A. Therefore, we have sworn before Notary and Advocate Deepa M.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **B.N.ANITHA,** D/o B.S.Nanjundappa and Susheelamma P, W/o B.P.Ramachandra, aged about 50 years, R/o Balla Village, Avani Hobli, Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District and also at #3100, Mulbagal, Kolar District **(Aadhar No.7769 6271 8935)**. I have changed my name from **N.Anitha** to **B.N.ANITHA** & Date of Birth from **20/06/1974** to **20/06/1975** for all the purpose. Sworn before B Nagaraja, Advocate & Notary, Mulbagal Vide Affidavit Dated: 06/04/2026.

I, Premika Prashanth Dixit W/o Prashanth Dixit, R/o Flat 320, B Block, Mahaveer Sanctum, 7th cross, 1st Main, LB Sastry Nagar, Vimanapura, Bengaluru 560017 have changed my name from Premika to Premika Prashanth Dixit for all purposes vide affidavit dated 08 April 2026 at Bengaluru

I, Ganesha N S/O, Narayanappa D R/o 92/86, 3rd Main , 4th Cross, Behind Nisargha School, Sriganda Nagara, Hegganahalli, Viswaneedam. Bengaluru 560091. have changed my name to Ganesh N for all purposes.

I, Khalid Ahmed Mohamed Iqbal, s/o Noor Mohammed Iqbal, R/o No-28 Venkatappa Road Tasker Town Shivajinagar B'luru-560051 have changed my name to Khalid Ahmed for all Purposes.

I, Murali Pandurang Mudali S/o Panduranga Mudali R/o No 39, 1st Main 1st Cross Punjab National Bank, Layout Konanakunte Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name to Murali Pandurang for all purposes

I, PRASHANTH PAPABATHINI P, S/o R/at No. 890, 3rd Floor, Jagadish Nagar, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru-560075, have changed my name to PRASHANTH P, vide affidavit dt: 07.04.2026, before notary B. Chitra, B.lore.

I, Umesha Patila S B S/O, Bharamappa S R/o No 35 Gf 4th Main 4th Cross Srinivasa Kalyana Mantapa Anjaneya Nagar Ittamadu Banashankari 3rd Stage Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to Umesh Patil S B for all purposes.

I, AJITH JACOB, S/o Jacob Ittycheriah, resident at Veracious Lansdale, Flat A-101, Whitefield Main Road, Bengaluru- 560066, have changed my name as AJIT JACOB, vide affidavit dated 01.04.2026, sworn before notary Nijagunaradhya T.C, Bengaluru.

I Kempgowda Kaniyaaru Subegowda Raje Gowda, S/o, Subbegowda, Residing at, No 572, Siddeswara Nilaya, Near Snshs, Jigani, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru 560105, have changed my name to Rajegowda Kaniyaaru Subbegowda for all purposes

WE, Mohammed Arifulla Khan & Salma Taj, residing at No.11, 4th Floor, 9th C Main, B.T.M Layout, 1st Stage, Bangalore- 560029, have changed our minor son name from ARIS KHAN to MOHAMMED ARIZ KHAN & Dob Is 08-09-2008, Vide affidavit dt: 04-04-2024, before notary C Sharada, Bangalore.

I, PRIYANKA ISABEL W/o Desmond Louis, residing at No. 001, Sunil Iris apartment, 3rd main, 14th cross Hoysala nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016. I have changed my name to PRIYANKA KUMARI, vide affidavit dt: 08-04-2026 before notary Renuka C , B.lore.

I,ANURADHA Math R/o.No-2, KVN enclave, venkatareddy layout, Bikasipura, Doddakallasandra, B'luru 560062 have changed my name to Anuradha.S.Math for all purposes.

I,LAKSHMINARASAPPA Narasimaiah R/o.Sorekunte At post,Bellavi Hobli Tumakuru 572128. Karnataka have changed my name to Lakshminarasappa Narasimhaiah for all purposes.

I, Lokesha Belur Nagappa Shetty R/o Ward No 20 Devanga Street Belur Hassan 573115 Have changed my name to Lokesh Belur Nagappa Shetty for all Purposes.

I, Vijay Jayakumar William (Aadhaar ending 6515), also known as J Vijaya William, declare both names belong to one person (myself). Error due to spelling variation.

I Vagesh N S/O, Narsimha Naidu R/o 28 1st Main 6th Cross Balaji Enclave Karahobanahalli Bangalore 560073 have changed my name to Vagesh Naidu.

I, THASUNA ALTAF HUSSAIN alias THESUNA ALTAF, W/o Ajit Jacob, resident at Veracious Lansdale, Flat A-101, Whitefield Main Road, Bengaluru- 560066, have changed my name as THASUNA ALTAF, vide affidavit dated 01.04.2026, sworn before notary Nijagunaradhya T.C, Bengaluru.

LOST & FOUND

LOSS OF DOCUMENT
I, **Prathibha. V,** W/o Deepak.G.K, R/at No.732, Housing Board, V.V.Puram, Gowribidanur City, Chikkaballapur District-561208. have lost the ORIGINAL REGISTERED SALE DEED, **dated:09-06-2020**, vide Sub-Registrar, Gowribidanur, vide Regd. No.**GBD-1-01247/2020-21, in CD No.GBDD492**, In respect of site property bearing Assessment **No.3325/15 e-khatha No.52-1002-15** executed by Smt. Rathnamma W/o Late.D.Ramaiah and Smt. Shanthamma W/o Late. B.C.Ganganayak, in favour of Smt. Sujatha.N W/o N. Ramakrishna Reddy, I have lodged a complaint through online vide Serial No.**2136760/2026**, dated: 02-04-2026. any person request to contact: **8861336021**

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that my clients, **GS.Vishnupriya.GS. Harish and GS.Thrilok,** all are children of late, GH. Srinivasappa, of Gunjur village, is the absolute owner and in possession of the Schedule Property described below. A Joint Development Agreement (JDA) and General Power of Attorney (GPA) executed in favour of **M/s Agasthya Builders and Developers, Rep, by its Managing partner Duddugunta Venkta Siva Narayana Reddy, registered as Document No. VRT-1-01006/2024-25 and Reg.No.VRT-4-00063/2024-25' Dt;03.05.2024** at the Sub Registrar Office, Varthur, Bengaluru, have been cancelled/revoked vide legal notice dated 16.03.2026, due to breach of terms. Hence, the said M/s Agasthya Builders and Developers, or anyone claiming through him has no right, title, or interest in the Schedule Property. Public are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above said builder in respect of the Schedule Property. Any such dealings shall be at their own risk, cost, and consequences.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY:

The converted lands bearing **Sy. No.306/10, measuring 0.02.08.00 guntas/ 2722.5 Sq. feet's and Sy.No. 306/26, measuring 0.02.12.00, guntas/ 2994.75, Sq.feet's, totally 5.1/4 guntas/ 5717.25 Sq. feet's,** situated at **100 feet Road, (NH-25), Gunjur village**, previously under the Jurisdiction of BBMP, come now under the jurisdiction of GBA, East Corporation, Ward No.149-Varthur, Gunjur Village, Bengaluru-87, and bounded on; **East by : 100 feet Road, West by : Gunjur Village, North by : Land of Sy No.306/24, South by : Land of Sy. No.306/16.**

S. Geetha Advocate
No.49/1-2.'Vrushadhri'
Gunjur, Bengaluru-87.
Mobile : 9845469351

Bennett & Coleman
THE TIMES OF INDIA

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 # Twin morning glimpse
Shraddha Arya shares adorable morning glimpse of twins Siya and Shaurya asleep in matching outfits, reflecting on motherhood journey after revealing their faces on first birthday celebration

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Triple film launch

On Monday, Sri Bandi Mahakali Temple was alive with hundreds of people, including artistes and technicians, on the occasion of launching three Kannada movies. Seetha Rama Raju is one of the three movies and it is to be directed by Keerthi Krishna, while director Swasthik will helm Darshana and director Kumar will lead the yet-to-be-titled project. All three films are backed by producer Arun Kumar under the Matrix Movie Makers banner.

The cast of Seetha Rama Raju includes Karthik Mahesh, Priyanka Kumar, Armugam Ravishankar, Jagappa and Deepika. Speaking on the occasion, director Keerthi Krishna said the film revolves around incidents in Bengaluru and Chikmagalur.

Stating that supporting a Kannada movie was his long-pending desire, Arun Kumar said he was happy to realise his dream. Karthik Mahesh and Priyanka Kumar said they liked the script, which has love and emotion elements. "It is not easy to launch three movies on the same day. I appreciate the producer for supporting three movies", Karthik Mahesh said. Director Kumar said casting for third film is underway.

Mahadev's bold debut

The trailer and two songs of Mruthyudevathe were unveiled at Utsav Legacy on Thursday. With this movie, Naveen Mahadev makes his debut not only as a director but also as an actor. The film is expected to arrive in theatres shortly.

Former corporator and businessman K Ramesh unveiled the trailer, while social worker Srinivas released the Mahadeva song and senior actress Vinaya Prasad unveiled the song Kaali. Thanking the guests for gracing the event, debutant director Naveen Mahadev said he earlier made a short film and described

Mruthyudevathe as his maiden feature.

"Mruthyudevathe is my maiden feature movie. I wrote the script and screenplay apart from handling the megaphone for this movie. Girls, despite being highly qualified, become victims of anti-social elements. The movie is about how a woman becomes a victim of greed and lust and how she teaches a lesson to the villain. I am planning to release the movie on the occasion of Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar's birthday. We are approaching the Central Board of Film Certification shortly for a certificate," he said.

Actor Sarika, known for Sahara, said she plays Arathi. "I played an innocent girl, going to any extent, performing action scenes", she said.

Salman defends Rajpal

Rajpal responds warmly to Salman's support message

Rajpal Yadav has been in the news ever since he was arrested in Rs 9 crore debt case. The actor was released on bail. The case dates back to 2010, when Rajpal Yadav borrowed Rs 5 crore from Murali Projects Pvt Ltd to finance his directorial venture Ata Pata Laapata (2012). The film failed at the box office, leading to mounting losses and a prolonged financial dispute. Over time, the liability escalated to nearly Rs 9 crore.

Amid this, Yadav recently attended an awards show where he said, "Rupya, dollar sab upar neeche ho raha hai, kuch samajh mein nahi aa raha hai (There's a lot of up and down in rupee and dollar, I'm not understanding anything)."

Following his remark, Salman Khan came out in support of the actor and said, "Rajpal bhai aap 30 yrs se kaam kar rahe ho aur hum sabne aapko repeat kiya hai baar baar kyunki aap apna kaam jante ho aur ek value laate ho, kaam toh aapko bohot milega aur issi dollar rate pe milega aur milte rahega. Hakikat yeh hai. Aur yeh yaad rakhna ke kabhi kabhi flow mai kuch nikal aata hai, dena hi hai toh dimag mai rakho dil se kaam karo, dollar upar ho ya neeche kya farak padta hai dena toh India mai hi hai @rajpalofficial."

Netizens reacted to Khan's post, with one user saying, "Rajpal Yadav ke samman mein. SALMAN bhai maidan mein," while another added, "Bilkul sahi kaha Skill aur consistency hi asli value hai. Dollar upar neeche hota rahe, lekin jo apna kaam janta hai usko kaam milta hi rehta hai ."

Yadav also responded, writing, "@BeingSalmanKhan. Bhai, mere 30 saal ke safar ko sarahne ke liye bahut-bahut shukriya. Aap hamesha ek bade bhai ki tarah raasta dikhate aaye hain. Love you, Bhai, Naman!."

On the work front, Yadav will next appear in Bhooth Bangla, starring Akshay Kumar and directed by Priyadarshan.—**ETimes**

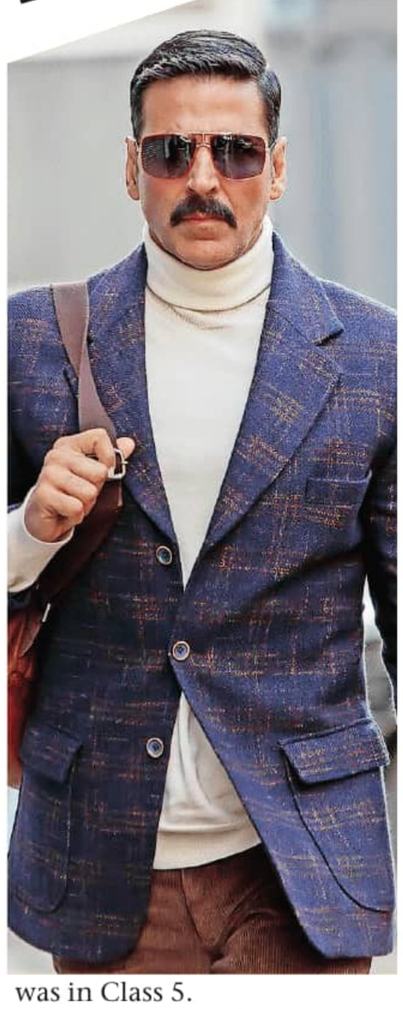
AKSHAY GETS EMOTIONAL

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar recently was sent on a trip down memory lane by two fans of his who appeared on the quiz reality show Wheel of Fortune, hosted by Akshay.

In a surprising turn, the fans revealed that they had met the superstar in the 2000s, when he was still building his career. The nostalgic moment began with contestant Neetu, who shared a story from her school days in Rajasthan. She recalled being in Class 9 when she spotted Akshay shooting for a film. Noticing the excited group of girls, Akshay called them over and handed out autographs.

She said, "Aapne hum girls ko dur se bulaya, aapki taraf aur apne hum sabko autograph diya, voh autograph pata nahi mujhe phir ghar mein mili nahi, toh main chahati hoon aap aaj mujhe firse aapke haatho se mujhe ek autograph dijiye."

Another contestant, Andell, shared that he had met Akshay during the filming of the 1997 hit Aflatoon at Mumbai's Marine Drive while he was in Class 5.



Reacting with humour, Akshay told the audience, "Aaj lagta hain, meri beizzati ka din hain, kuch karna padega meri umar ka."

Akshay Kumar, 58, has been part of the Hindi film industry for over three decades.

—ETimes

Sara's subtle hint

Sara Ali Khan set social media abuzz after sharing a quick Instagram story straight from her dubbing studio. While the clip itself was brief, it immediately caught attention for an interesting detail in the background, the original track from 'Pati Patni Aur Woh'. The unexpected audio choice became the highlight, leaving fans intrigued and eager to decode its significance.

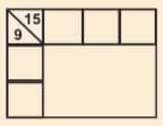
The moment the clip surfaced online, speculation quickly gathered pace. Fans began wondering whether the song hinted at a new project. Many questioned if Sara Ali Khan was dubbing for something linked to Pati Patni Aur Woh or simply listening to a personal favourite during work. The ambiguity only heightened the excitement, with theories continuing to circulate across social media platforms.

Adding to the curiosity, Sara shared a candid picture with director Mudassar Aziz, reportedly from the same dubbing session. The image further intensified chatter about a possible sequel, with fans speculating whether work on Pati Patni Aur Woh 2 has already begun, even as no official confirmation has emerged.

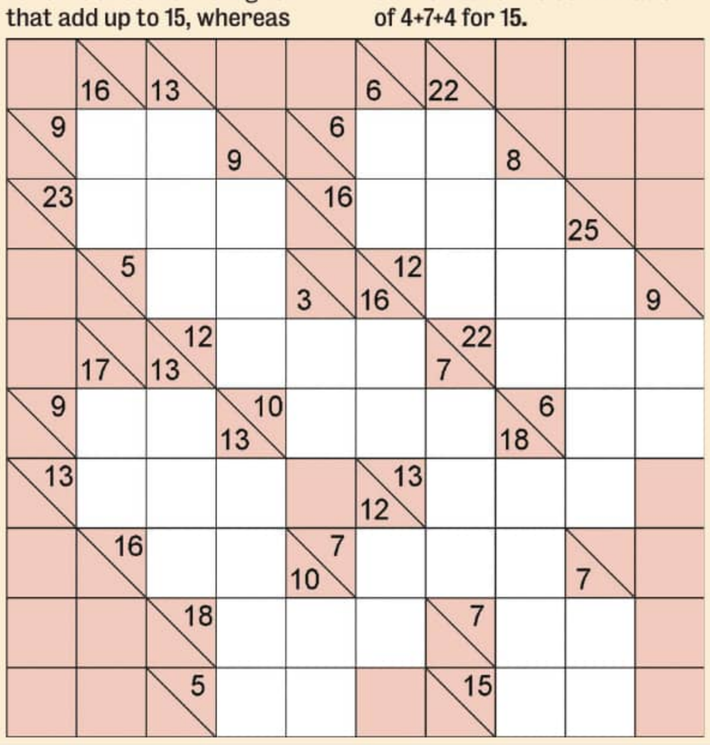
On the work front, Sara was last seen in Metro In Dino and Ae Watan Mere Watan, both of which highlighted her growing versatility. —ETimes

Kakuro

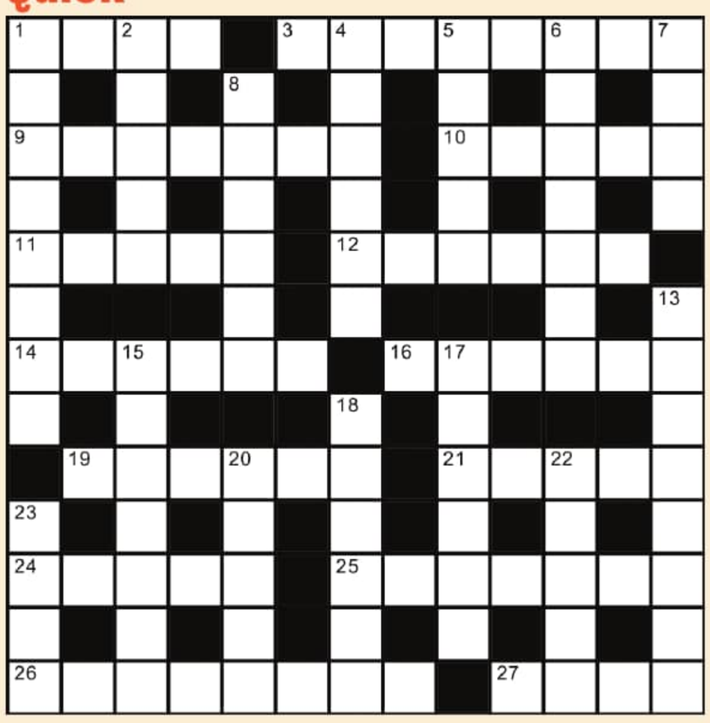
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 India's desert region (4)
3 Remains alive, as on food (8)
9 Fragrant flower (7)
10 Coolness in danger (5)
11 Open-mouthed (5)
12 Batting legend ___ Tendulkar (6)
14 An unpaid and overdue debt (6)
16 Spanner (6)
19 Turn sour, coagulate (6)
21 Dynasty which ruled the area around Bangalore in the 11th century (5)
24 More chilly or colder (5)
25 Distended (7)
26 Massacre of a race (8)
27 Retired leggie Kumble (4)

DOWN

1 Agra tourist attraction (3,5)
2 All __ ___ : confused ? (2,3)
4 Nervous or anxious (6)
5 To do with sound (5)
6 Djokovic for one, Jankovic for another (7)
7 Plan detail (4)
8 Film theatre (6)
13 Bomb fragments (8)
15 Get-together (7)
17 Suppose (6)
18 Became taut and high-strung (6)
20 Architectural style (5)
22 Synthetic fabric (5)
23 Monarch (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS T

PER CSZG SM CKRRP FRGLNEP, YQJ JRTRU HR FRMLGRF.

Linemaro

Do you live in a corn field, cause I'm stalking you.

Mindchow

Forgive everyone and put yourself at the top of the list.

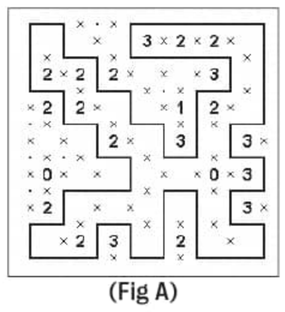
Joke of the day

Where do cows go for entertainment? To the moo-vies!

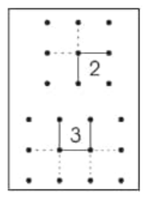
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



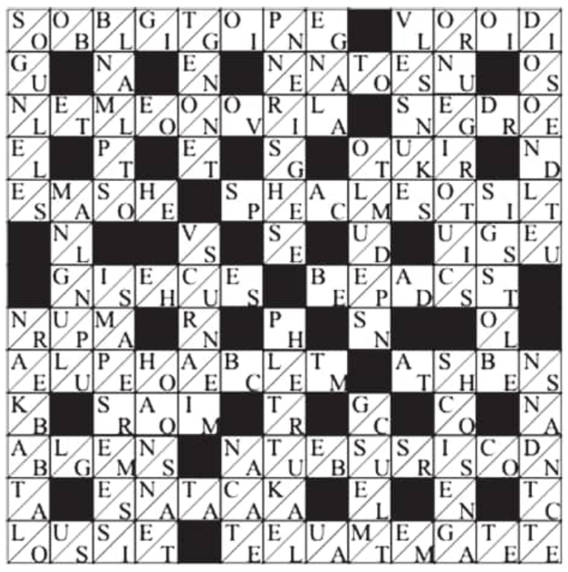
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				D
8				
9				

ACROSS

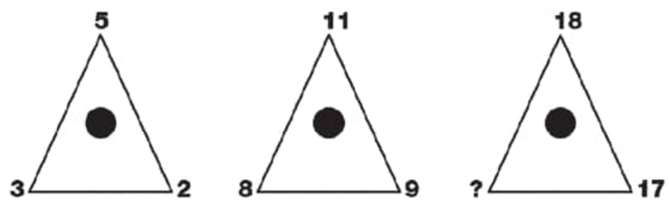
1 Sh Los; 6 Otter; 7 A drip; 8 Suing; 9 My nag

DOWN

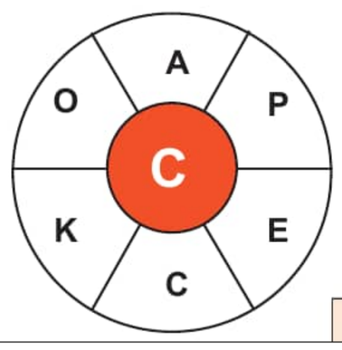
1 R must; 2 Also a; 3 Or nip; 4 Tings; 5 Hey DG

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the last triangle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1								
	5					1	2	8
4	2				8			
2			8	6		7	9	
	7			1			3	
	1	5		3	9			2
			2				8	6
5	4	3					7	
								3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 2

5 8 8 7

Medium

= 36

2 4 6 1

Hard

= 6

4 5 5 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

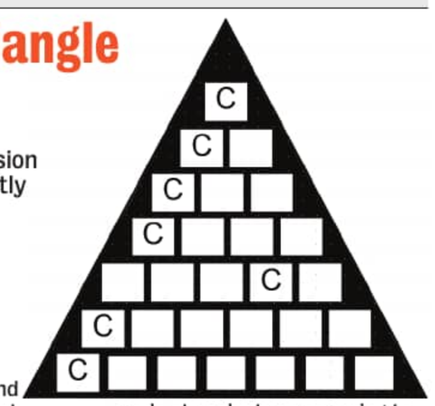
Differences: 1. Woman's hat is moved. 2. Car door handle is higher. 3. Bag is larger. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Woman's collar is larger. 6. Car window is different.

Riddler

Answer the clues with a pair of rhyming words. (plump feline = fat cat) **1.** timid gnat **2.** colourless shellfish **3.** big boat

Alpha triangle

1 Vitamin type
2 Company, abbr.
3 Large sea fish
4 Lacking compassion
5 Gently and sweetly
6 Duplicated
7 Commiserate

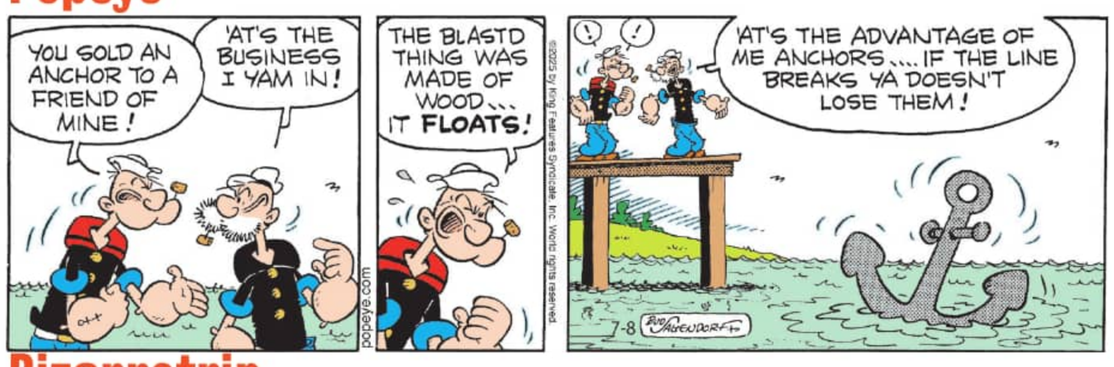


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

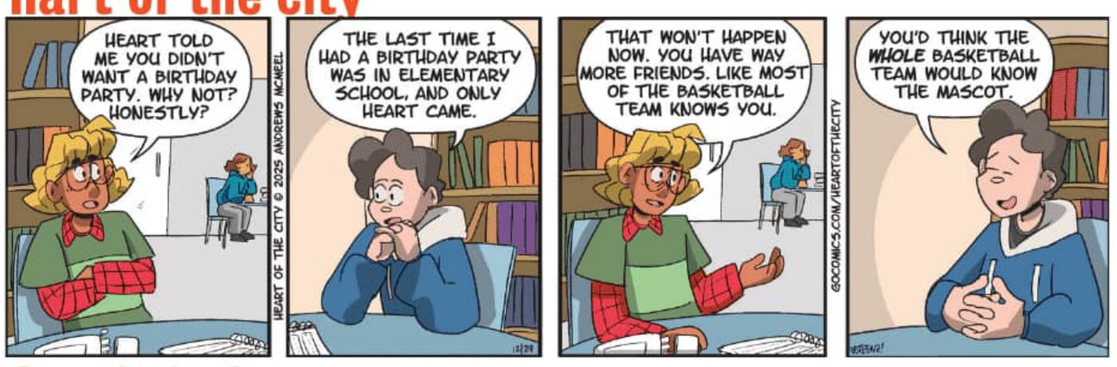
Popeye



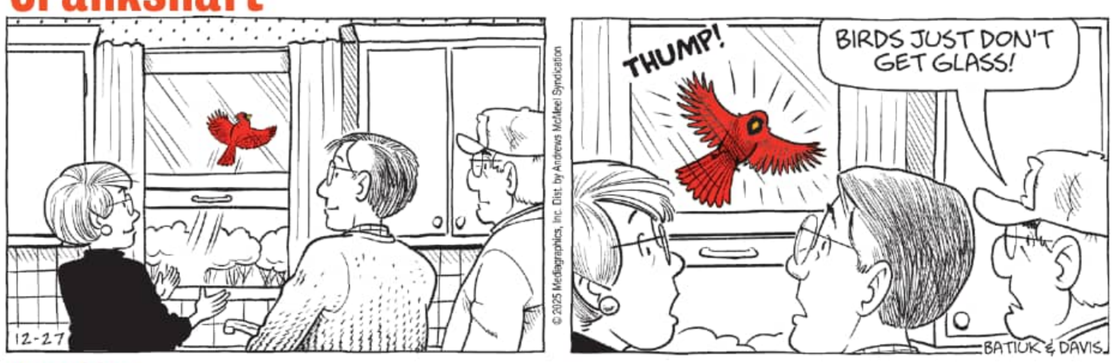
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



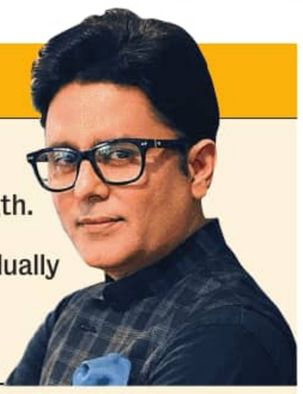
Crankshaft



Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Celebrating today begins a year where balance becomes your greatest strength. Travel invites exploration while career responsibilities grow in exciting ways. Love deepens through loyalty, tenderness, and shared laughter. Finances gradually strengthen through thoughtful discipline. Home life feels warm, supportive, and creatively fulfilling. Trust each step forward; the coming months reward patience, courage, and genuine connection everywhere you choose to.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

When did you last imagine your future, Aries? Visualizing goals isn't pointless—it's strategic planning. Don't assume current circumstances will continue forever. Your direction can change when you consciously rethink possibilities ahead.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

An idea that once seemed unrealistic now makes sense, Taurus. Your personal growth has shifted your perspective. Revisiting memories, photos, or reconnecting with old friends helps you appreciate how far you've come.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

A recent decision may require reconsideration today, Gemini. New information might challenge your earlier judgment. Stay confident enough to review the evidence honestly and adjust your viewpoint if necessary.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Someone from your past may reappear today, Cancer. They've changed and become more flexible than before. If they wish to reconnect, consider offering them another chance to rebuild your connection.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Reflect on your relationships today, Leo. Identify the core issue affecting them. If the same pattern appears repeatedly, consider whether your own actions or expectations might also require adjustment.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Working closely with someone you dislike isn't necessarily negative, Virgo. Keeping an open mind may reveal unexpected qualities in them. This experience could even lead to a surprisingly positive outcome.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Set aside lingering resentment toward someone today, Libra. Focus on completing your shared task or project successfully. Even if deep friendship never develops, mutual respect and cooperation can still exist.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Challenge your usual perspectives today, Scorpio. Explore unfamiliar ideas, beliefs, or viewpoints without judgment. Embracing curiosity and questioning established assumptions can expand your understanding and deepen your wisdom.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Creative inspiration rarely arrives on schedule, Sagittarius. Stay active and productive until ideas naturally emerge. When inspiration finally appears, adapt quickly and follow wherever your curiosity leads.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Before committing to any new responsibility today, Capricorn, examine the situation carefully. Consider who is involved and whether they deserve your trust. Avoid agreeing to plans without understanding the full picture.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Honesty has powerful influence today, Aquarius. Speaking openly may inspire meaningful change in others. Remaining silent helps no one, so express your truth confidently and allow it to bring clarity.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Let others see your authentic self today, Pisces. Step forward confidently and reveal both your intelligence and charm. There's no need to downplay your abilities, acknowledging your strengths earns genuine respect.

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (2³×3²)/36
= (8×9)/36
=72/36
=2

BULL'S EYE
cake, cape, coca, cock, coke, cope, pace, pack, PEACOCK, peck, pock

FAST FIVE

S	L	O	S	H
T	O	R	T	E
R	A	P	I	D
U	S	I	N	G
M	A	N	G	Y

RIDDLER
1. sly fly,
2. drab crab &
3. large barge

STRIKE OUT

O	B	L	I	G	I	N	G	■	V	O	I	D	■	■
G	■	A	■	E	■	E	A	T	E	N	■	O	■	■
L	E	M	O	N	O	I	L	■	N	E	R	O	■	■
E	■	P	■	E	■	G	■	O	U	R	■	D	■	■
S	A	S	H	■	S	H	A	L	E	O	I	L	■	■
■	■	■	■	S	■	S	■	D	■	U	S	E	■	■
■	■	■	N	I	E	C	E	■	B	E	A	S	T	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

QUICK

T	H	A	R	■	S	U	B	S	I	S	T	S	■	■
A	■	T	■	C	■	N	■	O	■	E	■	P	■	■
J	A	S	M	I	N	E	■	N	E	R	V	E	■	■
M	■	E	■	N	■	A	■	I	■	B	■	C	■	■
A	G	A	P	E	■	S	A	C	H	I	N	■	■	■
A	R	R	E	A	R	■	W	R	E	N	C	H	■	■
L	■	E	■	■	T	■	E	■	■	■	■	R	■	■
■	C	U	R	D	■	E	■	C	H	O	L	A	■	■
K	■	N	■	O	■	N	■	K	■	R	■	P	■	■
I	C	I	E	R	■	S	W	O	L	L	E	N	■	■
N	■	O	■	I	■	E	■	S	■	O	■	E	■	■
G	E	N	O	C	I	D	E	■	A	N	I	L	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
14. Numbers on corresponding points of each triangle progress by increasing steps, add 6 then 7 for the top, 5 and 6 for the bottom left and then 7 and 8 for the bottom right.

QUOTE UNCODE
The soul of sweet delight, can never be defiled.

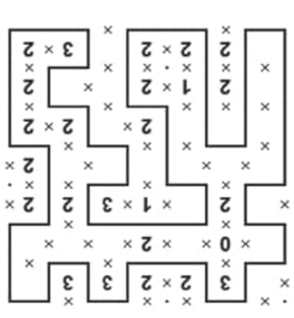
SUDOKU

8	6	2	5	9	7	4	1	3
5	4	3	6	8	1	2	7	9
7	9	1	2	4	3	5	8	6
6	1	5	7	3	9	8	4	2
9	7	8	4	1	2	6	3	5
2	3	4	8	6	5	7	9	1
4	2	9	1	5	8	3	6	7
3	5	6	9	7	4	1	2	8
1	8	7	3	2	6	9	5	4

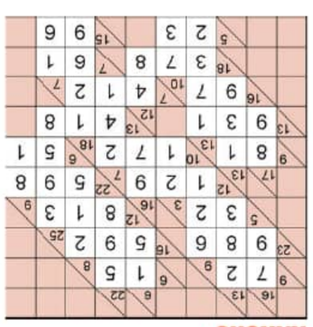
ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, Co, Cod, Cold, Dolce, Cloned, Conclole.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 – 8 + 8 – 5 = 2
Medium
4 + 2 x 1 x 6 = 36
Hard
5 – 5 x 4 + 6 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO



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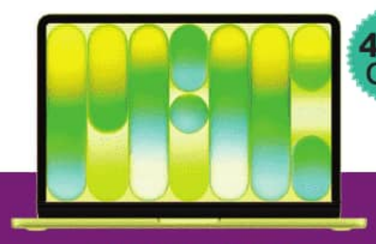

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MRP	₹49,500*
Selling Price	₹34,490*
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Exchange Value Up to	₹15,000*
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